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exist, until the grounds of retaliation are unequivocally removed. Our expectations, therefore, of an early and favourable change of measures, chiefly rest upon the prospect of a change of men and system.

In this state of uncertainty, intelligence of an important nature has been received in Paris papers of the 27th ult. From the annual *exposé* of the state of the French nation, it would appear, that the complete and virtual repeal of the Berlin and Milan decrees is still *conditional*, and will depend upon the precarious revocation of the orders in council, or upon the *the line of policy* which the American government may pursue. This important document is dated the 10th ult, and addressed to the Emperor, by M. Champagny, who, in adverting to the commercial policy of Great Britain, makes use of the following words, "*Your Majesty will persevere in your decrees, so long as England persists in her Orders in Council. You will oppose to the maritime blockade, the continental blockade; and to the plunder on the seas, the confiscation of English merchandise upon the continent. It is my duty to acquaint you, that there is henceforth no hope of bringing back your enemies to more moderate ideas, but by persevering in this system.*"

A letter has also been addressed to the president of the council of prizes, in which it is observed, that, in consequence of the American government having engaged to cause its rights to be respected, all cases pending, relative to the seizure of American vessels, subsequent to the 1st November, shall not be decided upon according to the principles of the Milan and Berlin decrees, but shall remain suspended, being, in the mean time, held under sequestration, till the 2d February next, when, in consequence of the United States having fulfilled their engagement of causing their rights to be respected, such vessels, with their cargoes, shall be restored to the rightful owners.

Exchange on London has through this month continued in Belfast, at $8\frac{1}{2}$ to 9 per cent; and in Dublin, at $8\frac{1}{2}$, 9, and $9\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Discount on bank notes has latterly risen in Belfast, to $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent, in exchange for guineas.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From December 20, 1810, to January 20, 1811.

Unite, illustrious nymphs! your radiant powers,
Call from their long repose the vernal hours.
Wake with soft touch, with rosy hands unbind
The struggling pinions of the western wind:

In phalanx firm the fiend of frost assail;
Break his white towers, and pierce his crystal mail,
To Zembla's moon—bright coasts the tyrant bear,
And chain him howling to the northern bear.

Melt with warm breath the fragrant gums, that bind
The expanding foliage in its scaly rind;
And as in air the laughing leaflets play,
And turn their shining bosoms to the ray;
Nymphs! with sweet smile each opening flower invite
And on its damask eyelids pour the light.

DARWIN.

AMONG the various phenomena which nature is daily presenting, one which annually occurs, has been little noticed, this is the flowering of plants at particular seasons, and so fixed is the law by which they are bound, that human ingenuity has not yet been able to break this immutable decree; the snow-drop cannot be made to delay its flowering beyond the usual period for snow, without appearing by the shortest delay greatly injured, nor can the spring flowering Crocus's be made to flower in the autumn, or the autumnal flowering ones in the spring, and it is only after many years of propagation, that plants from a country where they have been accustomed to an earlier spring, or those from the southern hemisphere, accommodate themselves to this climate.

Many valuable and beautiful plants might be introduced from the southern extremity of America, and Van Diemen's land; but although the climate is analogous to

our own, our intentions might be frustrated before they could accommodate themselves to a change of six months, in their period of foliation or fructification. It is plain that our country might derive important advantages, if the power of accelerating or retarding the vegetating principle could be discovered; but this like many other objects is probably only attainable by the attention of several observers being directed in the same course: it might be worth trying by those who have the convenience, if the progress of vegetation could be retarded with impunity by placing some roots in an ice-house, or accelerated by putting them in a hot-house, and this alternately; first placing, for instance, snowdrop roots in the hot-house, afterwards in the ice-house, and then in the hot-house again, and trying by this means to flower them two or three times in one year.

Jan. 9, Snow-drops (*Galanthus nivalis*) and Bell flowered Squills (*Scilla Campanulata*) appearing above ground.

11 Woodlark (*Alauda Arborea*) singing.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From December 20, 1810, to January 20, 1811.

As it often happens that while the snow falls and lies inland, the valley of Belfast is entirely free from it; can the wind blowing across the narrow sea between Scotland and Ireland be so much warmed by the passage as not to generate snow until it has passed 15 or 20 miles inland, and given out its maritime temperature? Can we conceive the Belfast lough to assist in diffusing this maritime warmth farther inland, when the wind comes in that direction, for it is often observed that the grounds on each side of this valley have a covering of snow, while the Belfast valley is not covered until long afterwards, or when a greater cold comes to prevail?

The same variable weather which has continued for such a length of time, yet marks this period.

December 21, 23, ...	Wet and stormy, snow lying on the mountains, with, it has been said, much Thunder and Lightning.	
24, ...	Dark dry day.	
25, ...	Showers and squalls.	
26, ...	Dark dry day.	
27, ...	Showers and squalls.	
28, 31, ...	Dark dry weather, somewhat frosty.	
January 1, ...	Dark dry day.	
2, ...	Some snow showers.	{ On the 4th the roads about Lurgan, Dromore, and Comber, had much snow on them, while the ground even the highest hills as far as could be seen from Belfast was entirely free from it.
3, ...	Fine frosty, with breezes.	
4, 8, ...	Dark with some hail showers.	
9, ...	Mild day, rain at night.	
10, ..	Wet.	
11, ...	Dry day, wet stormy night	
12, ...	Showers in the morning.	
13, ...	Fine frost	
14, ...	Showery frosty morning,	
15, ...	Snow.	
16, 18, ...	Stormy with showers.	
19, ...	Fine, frost.	
20, ...	Wet and stormy.	

The Barometer has been during this period mostly above 29; on the 25th of December, it was however as low as 28.5, and on the 28th, it was as high as 30.5.

The almost stationary position of the Thermometer about 35°, has been astonishing while the Newspapers mention a prevalence of severe frost about London; on the 5th of January only it was as low as 31°, while on the 17th it was as high as 50°.

The S. Westerly wind has blown 13; N.W. 3; N.E. 5, and Easterly 6 times.